LETTERS@METRO.US

HUGO CHAVEZ DIES OF CANCER AT 58 {page 07}

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BOSTON
Wednesday, March 6, 2013

2024: THE OLYMPICS LIKE ONLY BOSTON COULD

After group begins push to bring Summer Games to Hub, locals suggest events that athletes should try Twitter has fun with #FakeBostonOlympicEvents {page 02}

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In the news

5-8

Forecasters said yesterday they are predicting between 5 and 8 inches of snow in Boston, with snowfall starting tonight. The snowstorm, dubbed "Saturn," has been making its way East from the Midwest. METRO

Today's local tweet

"#shoutout to the females who do their makeup on the #mbta. I haven't mastered that art yet! #fb"

@ANNELANJIEL, WHO ADMIRES THE WOMEN THAT SAVE TIME ON THE T EACH MORNING

College. Paying for it

▶ "Somewhere here today is the person who is going to cure cancer or take us to Mars or invent the next iPad," Patrick said.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Students rally for college affordability

Hundreds of students from Massachusetts community colleges and state universities rallied at the State House yesterday as a part of Public Higher Education Advocacy Day. Students sought legislative support to increase state funding for financial aid programs. Gov. Deval Patrick spoke to the students and said he wanted to put "a college education in reach of all of our students" to grow jobs and unlock economic opportunity. METRO

MBTA mulls fare hike of 33 percent; cuts to close $120 million budget gap

T riders may be forced to endure service cuts and fare increases of up to 33 percent in July if state legislators do not approve more funding for the MBTA, which is facing a $120 million gap in the budget year that starts July 1.

It has been less than a year since the T raised fares and accepted a state bailout.

The most cost-effective service reduction, officials said, would be to eliminate the 30 least-used weekday and weekend bus routes and subsidies for six municipally run bus routes. Officials said eliminating the $120 million deficit without fare increases or service cuts is "not going to be possible through cost containment or additional revenue sources that we have control of." SHNS

By the numbers

$2.60

MBTA CFO Jonathan Davis and Charles Planck, director of strategic initiatives for the T, yesterday presented a MassDOT committee with options that would close the budget gap, including a fare-only solution that would raise bus fare from $1.50 to $2, and subway fare from $2 to $2.60.

$25M

The 30 least-used bus routes and subsidies cost the MBTA $25.2 million.

Drunken dash, snow joust: How Hub would host 2024 Olympics

After a private group began its push to bring the Olympics to the Hub in 2024, Bostonians yesterday weighed in on local Olympic Games

Hundreds of creative and quippy Bostonians wasted no time yesterday offering ideas on Hub-themed Summer Games as news quickly spread that a private group wants to bring the 2024 Olympics to the city.

The Boston Olympic Exploratory Committee said it wants Mayor Thomas Menino's blessing before pursuing support from local businesses, and some residents have already voiced opposition, citing a lack of space and a weak transportation system. But those who jumped on Twitter's #FakeBostonOlympicEvents trend yesterday seemed to have no problem with the event going off in Boston — as long as it reflects some of the Hub's favorite Masshole pastimes.

Most of the tongue-in-cheek game ideas involve some form of driving, some take place at the T, and, shockingly, only a few require drinking.

Take a look at our roundup of some of the best #FakeBostonOlympicEvents.

Morgan Rousseau
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

"Honkapalooza: Cross a taxi-filled street after the crosswalk has expired. Most honks wins." @SCHUPPALOOP

Gold medals

- "Hold up Callahan Tunnel ceiling tiles as long as possible." @CONORYUNITS
- "Rat catching 20minutes in the common and public garden to catch as many as possible points based on size & quantity." @NOAHSIMON5
- "Walk through Beacon Hill, on the cobble stone, up and down the hills, drunk, at midnight, in stilettos." @HELLONHEELSGIRL
- "Snow Shovel Jousting: Victor wins the parking spot." @SCHUPPALOOP

Silver medals

- "The Irish Biathlon: Beer Drinking and Fighting." @MWLPHELPS
- "The 100 Meter Commuter Rail Platform Sprint. Because your train is actually leaving on time for once." @ITSTHESEFF
- "Walking the Boston Marathon holding a 30 pack and finishing one beer at every mile checkpoint." @LYPSTIKJUNGLE
- "Silver Line sprint (who can get to Logan faster: you or the T?)" @JBERGSTEIN

Runners-up

- "Valet drivers sprint through North End to their cars parked in resident spots before BTD gives a ticket." @REPMICHLEWITZ
- "Avoid the I-93 potholes without injuring yourself or another driver." @STVBURNS

Could the T handle tourists?

Apparently not. When asked whether the MBTA could accommodate thousands of Olympic spectators if the event came to the Boston, MBTA Spokesman Joe Pesaturo said, "Confronted with a $140 million deficit in this year's budget ... and $8 billion in debt, the MBTA needs an Olympics-like effort to stabilize its finances."

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In the news

Police issue spring break advisory for college students

BOSTON. Whether you're planning to spend the remaining days of spring break away from the city or planning to get away for a longer period of time, police are urging students who live in off-campus apartments to lock up.

GOODSHOOT

▶ Lock it or lose it!

Boston police recently issued an advisory for students urging those who live in apartment buildings to secure their doors and windows.

"Spring break brings the opportunity for students to get away, but it can also provide opportunity for would-be thieves," police said in the advisory.

Police urged students to make sure their doors and windows are locked.

They urged students to have neighbors watch out for their apartments and said students should secure their electronics, including laptops, gaming systems, iPods and iPads.

Those items should be taken with students on vacation if possible. METRO

Medford teen survives nights on mountain in snow cave

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

▶ Nicholas Joy, 17, had somehow gotten out of bounds at Sugarloaf Mountain and was unable to find his way back.

In what some likened to a "miracle," a Medford teen who was missing for two nights on a Maine mountain was found yesterday morning after building his own snow shelter to survive.

Nicholas Joy built a snow cave to shield himself from the elements on Sugarloaf Mountain after he apparently became lost while skiing with family last weekend. Maine officials praised his presence of mind to create his own shelter.

"He … had the wits enough to make a snow cave and stayed there for the night," Maine Warden Service Lt. Kevin Adam told reporters during a news conference. "Obviously he made some errors getting off of the trail, but he used his head and made some very good decisions in building a snow cave, and even staying with the snow cave was a good decision."

The 17-year-old had been skiing with his father at Sugarloaf Mountain all day Sunday and was last seen by his dad as the teen rode a chairlift just after noontime that same day, the Maine Warden Service said.

Joy somehow got out of bounds on the ski area, came down on the west side of the mountain and realized he wasn't going to be able to get back, Adam said.

Survival

Adam said Joy drank water from a nearby stream to survive.

- News footage of Joy showed him in ski pants and a ski jacket.
- He was found on the snowmobile trail on Tuesday because he saw the snowshoe tracks left by search parties and followed them, Adam said.

Search crews looked for Joy on Monday and Tuesday in what officials called a "technical search on rough terrain." Aircraft couldn't be used because of high winds and snow in the area.

He was found around 9 a.m. by Joel Paul, a snowmobile rider from Massachusetts. The rider was not part of the search party, but he had been looking for Joy since Sunday.

Joy was found on a snowmobile trail and was being taken to a hospital for evaluation.

"This kind of thing is almost like a miracle," said Sugarloaf General Manager John Diller.

Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

Parents relieved

The hospital where Joy was treated after being found released a statement from his parents, Robert and Donna Joy.

"There is great relief and happiness that Nicholas has made it through this difficult ordeal. We want to thank everyone for their hopes and prayers, and especially members of the rescue team," they said. The hospital said Joy is "doing well."

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Another black eye for BU

Death of student at fraternity party is the latest incident involving Boston University's Greek system Sigma Alpha Mu has been suspended

It's another year and another fraternity made up of Boston University students is in trouble.

The university and national organization suspended the BU chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu after a gathering at an Allston apartment last weekend ended in the death of a freshman.

Colin Riley, a BU spokesman, said the organization is suspended while the university conducts a probe into the gathering that resulted in the death of Anthony Barksdale II, who was found unconscious at the apartment late Friday night and later died. The cause and manner of his death are still under investigation.

Two other Greek organizations made up of BU students were in trouble last year because of incidents that involved hazing and drinking.

Riley said that Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore traditionally speaks to the hundreds of student groups at the university about their responsibility in being student leaders.

"Obviously, alcohol is a topic that's discussed and emphasized, as well as the need to prevent any dangerous situation from occurring and to be responsible," Riley said.

Barksdale was a member of the fraternity and lived at an on-campus residence known as the Towers. Elmore said the fraternity's president told him that the event Friday night was a "meet and greet" attended by about 46 people, according to BU Today. Neighbors of the Wadsworth Street apartment building told Metro earlier this week that it is known as a gathering place for a fraternity.

▶ Police were parked outside the apartment yesterday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Fraternity woes

Sigma Alpha Mu is not the first Greek organization at Boston University to find itself in trouble within the last year.

Last April, multiple Boston University students faced charges after police responded to a home on Ashford Street in Allston and found five Alpha Epsilon Pi pledges bound together with duct tape, wearing only their underwear and covered in condiments like hot sauce.

The Sigma Delta Tau sorority was suspended last year after a March hazing incident that sent two students to the hospital, according to BU Today.

Michael Naughton
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In the news

Ex-cop faces federal charges

WATERTOWN. A retired Watertown police officer was arrested yesterday on federal charges related to identity theft and drugs.

Joseph Deignan, 57, allegedly stole the driver's license of another person in 2010 while he was working as the town's traffic supervisor. He then used the identification to buy oxycodone and other controlled substances by forging prescriptions in the person's name, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

He retired in February 2012.

If convicted, Deignan could face up to 15 years in jail. METRO

15

If convicted, Deignan could face up to 15 years in jail.

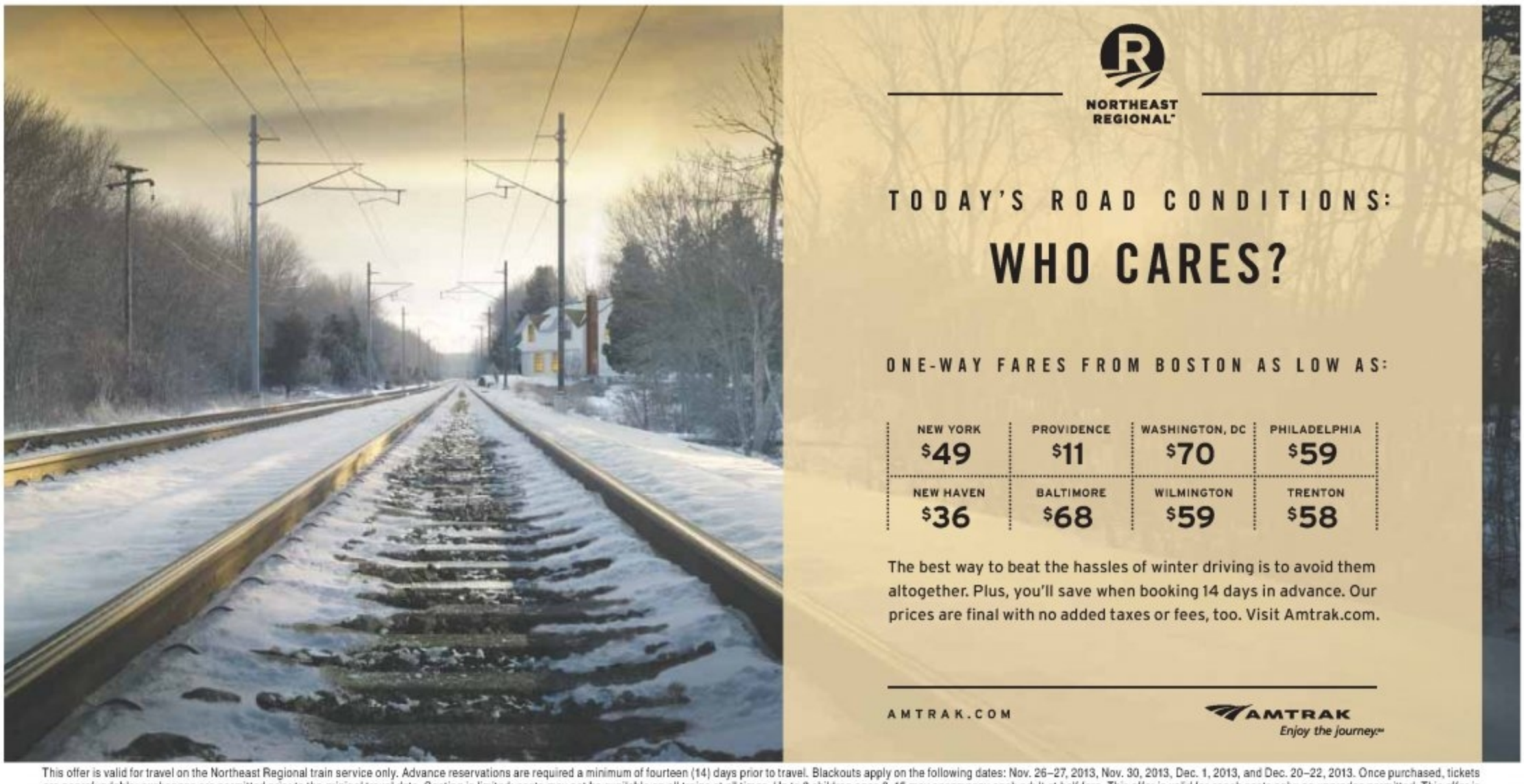
Food-trade fair to connect area farmers with local restaurants

A local food fair will bring together dozens of farmers and fishermen at the Seaport World Trade Center.

Organizers of the second annual Buy Local Food Trade Show and Seminar announced yesterday that the event is set for March 19.

The four-hour seminar aims to find creative and innovative ways for restaurants and retailers to work with farmers and local food producers.

The first Buy Local Trade Show was held at the Seaport World Trade Center in 2010 in collaboration of Restaurant Week Boston and its "Go Local with Restaurant Week Campaign." METRO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In the news

Clock running out as Obama faces pressure on Iran

WASHINGTON. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said there remains "time and space" for diplomacy aimed at averting military action to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons power.

Still, the pressure on President Barack Obama's administration to move toward military action is growing as Iran advances its uranium enrichment capabilities, and U.S. lawmakers, Israel and Persian Gulf allies press for results.

Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said negotiating time is "finite."

"The clock is ticking and the president has made that clear," Kerry said in an interview in Doha with Andrea Mitchell of NBC News. "The president's policy is that Iran will not get a nuclear weapon." Iran is using negotiations to "buy time" to pursue a nuclear weapons program, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday in a video address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual conference in Washington. Although Iran's uranium enrichment activities have yet to cross Israel's "red line," the Islamic Republic is "getting closer" to the point where it would be capable of quickly producing a nuclear weapon, he said.

U.S. Senator John McCain, an Arizona Republican, told the group, a major pro-Israel lobby, that diplomatic efforts with Iran "have failed, and it is very clear that they are on the path of having a nuclear weapon." **BLOOMBERG**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Iranian soldiers

Kerry says US wants to see N Korea take steps for peace

Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday that Washington hoped North Korea would engage in negotiations to resolve world concerns instead of threatening to scrap a 50-year old truce with the South.

Pyongyang threatened to scrap the agreement that ended a 1950-53 civil war and sever a military "hot line" with the United States if South Korea and Washington pressed on with two-month-long war games.

"Rather than threaten to abrogate, the world would be better served if [North Korea] would engage in legitimate dialogue," Kerry said yesterday during a joint news conference with his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani. "Our preference is not to brandish threats, but for peaceful negotiations," he added.

North Korea's threat was a notable sharpening in the country's often bellicose rhetoric and followed word that the United States and China had struck a tentative deal on a draft U.N. sanctions resolution that would punish North Korea for its third nuclear test. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A South Korean policeman holds a North Korean prisoner of war at gun point as he marches him to a stockade during the Korean War in 1953.

Still at war

- The Koreas remain technically at war since the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Kerry dismisses basketball star's North Korea visit

Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday brushed off a visit to North Korea by former basketball great Dennis Rodman, suggesting the sportsman was no diplomat. Rodman emerged from four days in North Korea on Friday, calling the leader of the reclusive country, Kim Jong-un, "an awesome kid."

The five-time NBA champion known for his tattoos, body piercings and flamboyance was there to film a sports documentary and watched a basketball game alongside Kim. **REUTERS**

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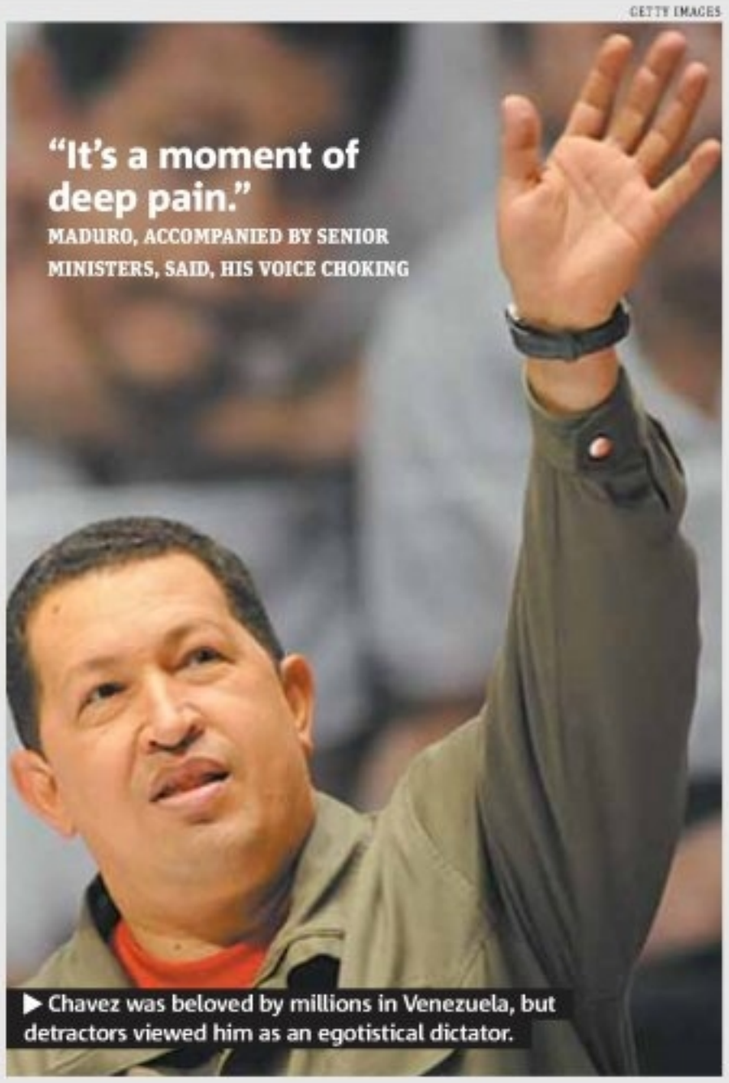
Hugo Chavez dead at 58

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has died after a two-year battle with cancer, ending the socialist leader's 14-year rule of the South American country, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said in a televised speech yesterday. The flamboyant 58-year-old leader had undergone four operations in Cuba for a cancer that was first detected in his pelvic region in mid-2011. His last surgery was on Dec. 11, and he had not been seen in public since.

Chavez easily won a new six-year term at an election in October and his death will devastate millions of supporters who adored his charismatic style, anti-U.S. rhetoric and oil-financed policies that brought subsidized food and free health clinics to long-neglected slums.

Detractors, however, saw his one-man style, gleeful nationalizations and often harsh treatment of opponents as traits of an egotistical dictator whose misplaced statist economics wasted a historic bonanza of oil revenues. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES



"It's a moment of deep pain."
MADURO, ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR MINISTERS, SAID, HIS VOICE CHOKING

▶ Chavez was beloved by millions in Venezuela, but detractors viewed him as an egotistical dictator.

Chavez: A history of tension with the US

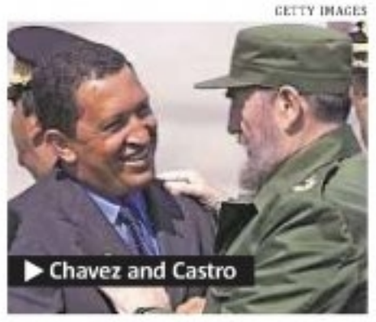
Hugo Chavez's strained relationship with the U.S. government may best be exemplified by his opening line in a speech to the United Nations in 2006.

"Yesterday the devil was here. It smells of sulfur still," Chavez said, directly attacking then-U.S. President George W. Bush, who had been on the same stage the day before.

That discord continued as recently as yesterday, when Venezuelan authorities expelled two U.S. troops who allegedly participated in acts of conspiracy against the government. Last month, the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry mentioned that one of his objectives is to improve relations with Venezuela.

On multiple occasions over the years, Chavez spoke against the U.S. government. He associated with countries hostile to the United States, such as Cuba and Iran, among others. Chavez said on more than one occasion that he had evidence that the United States had developed a plan to invade Venezuela. He also accused the U.S. of collaborating with the failed coup of 2002 and even spoke of a plot to assassinate him. At one point, he hinted that the U.S. may have been involved in infecting leaders of leftist governments with different types of cancer.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Chavez and Castro

At all times, the United States denied the accusations of Chavez and his government.

Despite these tensions, the Venezuelan government has never stopped selling oil to the United States, even partnering with former Congressman Joe Kennedy to deliver free fuel to hundreds of thousands of American households in need.

Big names in Hollywood also showed sympathy for Chavez. Filmmaker Oliver Stone portrayed him in the documentary "South of the Border" in 2009. Since then, he worked closely with the Venezuelan leader and recently said on national television that Chavez did for Venezuela what Barack Obama was doing for the United States to improve the condition of life of their constituents. Actor Sean Penn was also a Chavez supporter, once saying that he "is a fascinating man and did great things for 80 percent of the people of Venezuela." **METRO PUERTO RICO**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

What is going on with Kim Kardashian's maternity clothing?

As a woman who has grown a baby in her uterus, I know how hard it is to find good maternity clothing. So I can relate to **Kim Kardashian**'s problem finding a flattering pregnancy wardrobe. However, I'm not sure why she's continuing to dress like she isn't pregnant. My theory? Her fashion plate boyfriend, **Kanye West**, has something to do with it. So I hope he looks at her recent attempts and is like, "Yo, honey. Here are some stretch pants from Gap and a nice wrap dress. We can pick up this 'haute couture' stuff up later."

Case in point: As soon as Kardashian started to show, she decided to don this mesh-leather-feather-pants ensemble which made her resemble a motorcycle-riding ostrich. Then, on Saturday, she wore this ill-fitting white ensemble in Beverly Hills, which is made for a much taller, much less knocked-up person.

▶ Leave the high fashion at home, Kim. Take a page from Kate's book and go with simple, bump-flattering choices.

I'm not saying you can't look nice while pregnant (look at **Kate Middleton**, who is sticking to basic, bump-flattering outfits, like this belted jacket she wore yesterday in Grimsby, England).

I'm just saying that you should respect the bump and your growing body — instead of squeezing into high fashion.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@SarahKSilverman
BACKFIRE: This AdvilPM is giving me the dancing bug

@Rosie
On my way to film SMASH - love that show so much ... I am playing me - luckily I have done a lot of research ;)

@PaulaAbdul
So how did you spend the 1st weekend in March? Are you still on track with those #goals you set on Jan 1st?

Swift: Back it up, people

Taylor Swift has some news for everyone keeping track of her love life. "If you want some big revelation, since 2010 I have dated exactly two people," she tells Vanity Fair, referring to high schooler **Conor Kennedy** and One Direction member **Harry Styles**. "The fact that there are slideshows of a dozen guys that I either hugged on a red carpet or met for lunch or wrote a song with, it's just kind of ridiculous." But she doesn't let all the talk get to her. "If there's a pregnancy rumor, people will find out it's not true when you wind up not pregnant," she says.

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Elvish creature spotted in Japan

1: We're not really sure what this is all about, but this is apparently a singer, **Kyary Pamyu Pamyu**, and she was in Tokyo yesterday to launch the new GU logo (again, we have no idea what's going on here).

2: "I didn't do it, honestly!" **Martha Stewart** testified in Manhattan Supreme Court yesterday. Macy's is suing J.C. Penney and Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia because the store wants to sell Stewart's merchandise, which is contracted to Macy's.

3: You guys, "Jersey Shore" has a British spin-off. Cast members from "Geordie Shore" — **Charlotte Letitia Crosby**, **Vicky Pattison** and **James Tindale** — posed at Sydney's Bondi Beach yesterday.

4: Tina Fey looked snazzy in blue yesterday at the New York City premiere of her upcoming film "Admission," which co-stars Paul Rudd.

5: Well, hey there, **Dylan McDermott**. You're lookin' pretty good these days. The actor attended the Cinema Society and Make Up For Ever screening of "Electrick Children" in NYC on Monday.

1: JUN SATO/WIREIMAGE
2: DAVID HANDSCHUH-POOL/GETTY IMAGES
3: LISA MARIE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES
4: SLAVEN VLASIC/GETTY IMAGES
5: ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES

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myentertainment

As 'Fierce' as they come

Gold Dust Orphans parody Joan Crawford to great effect with 'Mildred Fierce' Thanks to drag legend Varla Jean Merman, the gender-bending tap-dancing musical is amongst the finest the company has ever produced

"Mildred Fierce" is anything but a drag. Olive Another, third from left, and Varla Jean Merman, fourth from left, are especially brilliant.

MICHAEL VON REDLICH

Varla Jean Merman makes everything more fun. Even the always-glittery Gold Dust Orphans seem to sparkle a bit more when the legendary drag performer joins their party.

The statuesque leading "lady" brings much more than a big pair of pumps to Ryan Landry's latest farce, "Mildred Fierce." By playing it straight, (OK, by playing it serious), Merman, whose alter-ego is performance artist Jeffery Roberson, delivers impeccably timed belly laughs in this pulp noir parody of the 1945 Joan Crawford film "Mildred Pierce." Ever the triple-threat, Merman reminds us she can sing, dance and make musical magic with a can of Cheez Whiz.

Plot points

Fueled by the need to please her nasty, self-serving daughter Veda, Mildred Fierce parlays her lowly job as a waitress into a restaurant empire. Bad decisions, and worse taste in men, force the single mother to take desperate measures in an effort to win her daughter's love.

While Landry remains faithful to the Academy Award-winning film he lampoons, he still manages to take it too far in all the right places (like naming a restaurant Mildred's Pie Hole). The result is a gender-bending, tap-dancing, musical extravaganza that is definitely, and thankfully, not wholesome family fare.

The Orphan mainstays are all in attendance. Penny Champayne is a nasty delight as Mildred's evil daughter Veda. Olive Another is hilarious as Mildred's friend Ida. Doing double-duty as choreographer and ethically challenged businessman Wally, Delta Miles delivers his (or is it her?) finest performance to date.

Aside from being the comic brains behind the entire production, Landry also makes a cameo as an uptight elder and a riotous turn as daffy domestic Butterball. Chris Loftus plays the straight man while Brooks Brasselman gives a dubious orientation to two-timing sleaze Monty Brigadoon.

Amelia Gossett and Lauren Duffy have created one of the best Orphan sets ever, and Scott Martino's outrageous costumes highlight Mildred's biggest assets. But it's director James P. Byrne who, somehow, makes it all look effortless.

Nick Dussault
nick.dussault@metro.us

If you go

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Games of spring

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK
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SCEA

▶ "The Last of Us" sends players to a post-apocalyptic world.

So you've spent the lion's share of winter cooped up indoors, curled up in the fetal position and cursing your maker. Good news! Spring is almost here. Get out of that fetal position and, um, onto that couch. That's right. There are a bunch of cool video games coming out in the next few months.

'Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon'
Console: 3DS
Company: Nintendo
Release date: March 24

Mario might be an expert world-saver and princess-rescuer, but Luigi has his skills too. In short, he busts ghosts. He's pretty much Bill Murray with a mustache. This new "Luigi's Mansion" title sends our green hero into multiple haunted mansions, complete with an array of poltergeist pinching paraphernalia. It can be played cooperatively online, as well.

'The Last of Us'
Console: PS3
Company: Naughty Dog
Release date: June 14

The PS3 is preparing to float off into that pixelated sunset. Help it go out with a bang with what could be its final exclusive blockbuster. "The Last of Us" is a haunting, beautiful and action-packed look into life after the apocalypse. Details on the plot are scarce, but the gameplay looks even tighter than the company's massively successful "Uncharted" series.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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mystyle

Chanel

Paris Fashion Week diary

MARCH 5

10:30 a.m.
The **Chanel** show is such a massive affair that police have been hired to direct traffic outside the Grand Palais, where it's held every season. I don't so much walk into the venue as get swept and carried away by the crowd. Inside a giant globe sits in the middle of the runway with little illuminated flags bearing interlocked C's pinned to all of the countries that have Chanel stores. Across the room a gang of paparazzi are photographing someone who has just walked in. When the flashes calm down, I can make out Frank Ocean and Jessica Chastain sitting front row.

10:40 a.m.
There's a lot of change in the air in Paris right now, with so many new incarnations of old storied houses. This morning, insiders are still dumbfounded by what Hedi Slimane showed at Saint Laurent last night. So the consistency of Karl Lagerfeld's presence at Chanel is a reassuring source of stability for a small, gilded community of luxury houses in a state of constant flux. More than any other collection that he's shown in recent years, this one looked like pure Karl Lagerfeld. Maybe it's the by-product of his work, developing his recently resurrected namesake line, but his fall work featured all of the hallmarks of Chanel, with the slick, rocker-tinged note of futurism we've come to associate with its creative director. Standouts include a black tweed skirt suit done in glossy leather and a series of little black dresses, some embellished with patent strips, others with soft folds of white silk. Even the leather boots, covered in badass chains, look like something Karl himself would wear. It's as if the globe the models are revolving around is meant to remind us who the real king of Paris is. KENYA HUNT

Front row

▶ Milla Jovovich and Jessica Chastain with Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel

Trend: Plaid

Chanel | Saint Laurent | Givenchy

Trend: Winter white

Giambattista | Valli | Chloe

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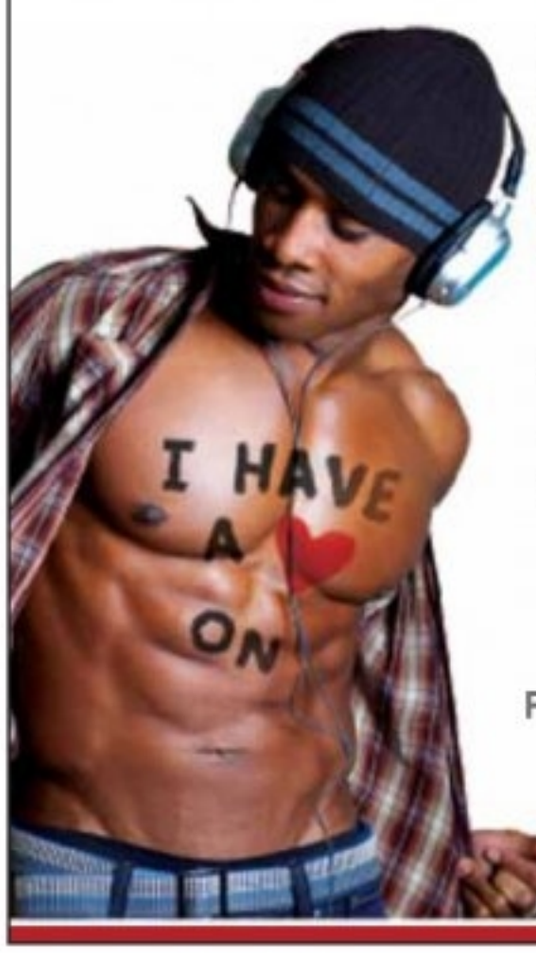

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Advice

JOY BAUER

HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPERT FOR THE 'TODAY' SHOW AND NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

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3 Scrumptious dinner recipes you can overeat free of guilt

These recipes are made with nonstarchy vegetables and low-calorie condiments, so they fill you up without filling you out.

Zucchini Linguine
INGREDIENTS
4 large zucchini, peeled and cut into long strands
2 teaspoons crushed garlic
Onion powder, to taste
Olive oil spray
½ cup marinara sauce
INSTRUCTIONS: Spray a nonstick skillet with olive oil spray. Toss in zucchini, garlic and onion powder and saute for eight minutes. Add marinara sauce for the last two minutes. Twirl away!

Roasted Tomato and Garlic Soup
INGREDIENTS
4 28 oz. cans of peeled whole tomatoes in juice, drained and cut in half
20 cloves of garlic, peeled and cut in half lengthwise
1 small red onion, cut into thin slices
48 oz. low-sodium chicken broth
Onion powder, to taste
Garlic powder, to taste
Black pepper, to taste
Sea salt, to taste
Olive oil spray
INSTRUCTIONS: Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line two nonstick baking trays with tomatoes, garlic and onion. Coat lightly with olive oil spray and cover generously with black pepper, onion powder and garlic powder. Lightly sprinkle with sea salt. Roast both trays in the oven for about 25 minutes. Scoop contents into a large bowl or pot and add chicken broth as well. Carefully puree using an immersion blender until smooth.

▶ This Shanghai Stir-fry is loaded with vegetables.

Shanghai Stir-fry
INGREDIENTS
2 cups bok choy, chopped
1 cup sugar snap peas
2 cups broccoli slaw
1 cup shitake mushrooms, chopped
1 cup button mushrooms, chopped
2 red peppers, diced
1 small can sliced water chestnuts
1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
1½ cups low sodium chicken broth
2 tablespoons scallions, chopped
1 tablespoon wasabi mustard
2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
INSTRUCTIONS: Spray a nonstick skillet with olive oil spray and add mushrooms, peppers and bok choy. Saute for two minutes, then add broccoli slaw. Slowly add as much chicken broth as needed to keep the mixture from burning. Add ginger, water chestnuts and scallions. Continue to cook until vegetables are at desired level of crunchiness. Mix the wasabi mustard, soy sauce and the rest of the chicken broth to form a sauce. Pour onto the vegetables and mix throughout for one minute.

— For more delicious diet-friendly meal ideas, visit **Joybauer.com** *and follow her on Twitter (@***joybauer***), Facebook and Pinterest.*

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Quoted

"What you end up [getting is] a sprain-strain injury. ... The muscle fibers start to get slight tears in them. Most people aren't just aware." PETERSON

ABLESTOCK

▶ Sleeping during your commute can strain your neck — and your relationship with the rider next to you.

6 Tips for a healthier ride

If you're on the train or bus right now, do this little self-check: Are you bending your neck to read this? Are you fidgeting from one foot to the next? Is there a gym bag or heavy purse on your shoulder? If so, those little aches and pains you've been complaining about might be due to how you get yourself to and from work each day.

"I hear this all the time with patients," says Dr. Louis Peterson, a chiropractic physician in New York City. "They'll come in [saying] 'Oh, my neck's sore.' Those little things start to add up on the commute."

And they can add up to long-term consequences, he says. "What you end up [getting is] a sprain-strain injury, where your neck actually gets strained. The muscle fibers start to get slight tears in them. Most people just aren't aware."

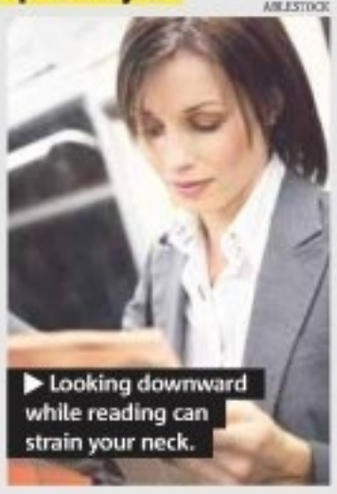
We asked Dr. Peterson to explain how we should be traveling to and from work.

1 Try to stay awake

Anyone looking for some extra Z's shouldn't find them on the subway: "When [commuters] fall asleep, with their neck stuck to one side, eventually problems [develop]," Dr. Peterson says. "It's really not good. The neck gets strained." The fix: "Have your neck up and supported."

Tip 2: Adjust

ABLESTOCK



▶ Looking downward while reading can strain your neck.

Hold your book (or your Nook, or your Metro!) up

"One of the biggest things I see is, when you're commuting, you're spending a lot of time reading and your head is face-down. That causes issues with the neck, and that's always problematic."

Tip 3: Stretch

It's not just for athletes:

▶ "If you have some pains, try simple stretches for the neck or the low back," Dr. Peterson advises. "If it hurts, [use] ice; if you're really dire, give me a call."

4 Make it a balancing act

"If you're standing and holding on, you should try to distribute your weight. You shouldn't be on one foot or the other," Dr. Peterson says. And don't get distracted: Using your phone or trying to read will make your head point downward, which you're trying to avoid.

5 Hold your bags or purses correctly

"Backpacks are the acceptable bags, not having a single bag trying to balance on the shoulders," Dr. Peterson warns. If you have a purse, "hold it in your hand, not on your shoulder, [because the shoulder] is where you get problems." Indeed, if you rest a bag there, your shoulder can "get tilted one way or the other," he says. "You tend to yank that shoulder up higher, and after a while your neck cricks up."

6 Walk this way

Sorry, ladies, but you really should go for the whole suit-with-sneakers look. "You can put your heels on at work," Dr. Peterson says. "When commuting, you should try to stay away from it. It puts an enormous amount of pressure in your lower back."

Meredith Engel
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Look of the Month – Smooth, Sleek Blowout.

This month's look is a smooth, sleek blow out. This look is really perfect for any occasion – great for work, play, or a special night out. Once you've mastered the blow out, the possibilities are endless – you can adjust it based on your own personal style.

Start with the front section of your hair – it's important to start with the front first, so that you have more control over any cowlicks and you are able to part your hair the direction you want. Dry the front section, focusing on the roots, until about fifty percent dry.

After the front is done, move on to the rest of your hair; make sure to keep the blow dryer moving so you are removing the moisture evenly. When hair is fifty percent dry, add a small amount of **smoothing serum** (Lisa F of our Danvers location recommends **Framesi Hair Force Instant Straightener**) throughout your hair, focusing on the middle & ends of your hair. This will not only help smooth your hair, but will also help protect your hair from heat. Never forget to add some kind of heat protectant to hair – your hair will thank you for it!

Section your hair into three sections – bottom, middle, and top. A simple trick is to clip up the top & middle sections & begin with the bottom. Taking small three inch pieces, begin blow drying smooth. One of the most important things is making sure your blow dryer nozzle is pointing down, from shaft to ends. Be sure you are holding the hair tightly – don't allow any slack.

Once an area of hair is done, before you take your hair off the brush, hit the "cool" button on your blow dryer. This helps smooth the hair & reduces frizz. Continue until all sections are done.

Once your entire head is bone dry, take a dime-sized amont of **Argan oil** (Lisa recommends **Framesi Hair Treatment Line Sublimis Argan Oil**) and smooth through your hair to prevent fly aways. Make sure to play with your hair at this point; flip it upside down, run your fingers through it, make it look a bit less perfect.

The tools you will need for this look are:

- A round ceramic hair brush – one and one-half inch barrel
- A blow dryer, with a nozzle
- Clips
- A smoothing serum
- An argan oil

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(Featuring tips by Lisa F of our Danvers Dellaria Salon)

Lisa F has been working with Dellaria for the past seven years at the location in Danvers. Danvers, one of the original company locations has a "rich history" and has allowed Lisa to "learn and work along side some truly gifted stylists who have been in the industry for over 30 years." Lisa brags that her "clients and coworkers are the reason that I love to do what I do." A huge part of Lisa's clientele is working with the New England Patriots Cheerleaders - which has been an amazing experience.
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RE: "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE IN COMPARING ANIMALS VS. HUMANS" (METRO, MARCH 5) In the letter written by Feng Xia, it says, "The argument that animals are inferior to human is just bizarre." I think the author's thought is bizarre. In religion, human beings are the most precious species; in evolution, human beings are the most advanced animal. Then I want to know on what ground that makes you think that animals are equal to humans. It is you who raises the pets; it is not the pets that raise you. People are too easily overwhelmed by their affection but get lost in their rationality. I love animals, and I'm against any kind of behavior of animal abusing, but I do not think that animals are equal to human beings. To make it simple: When you are fighting with a wolf, which side do you think we should help?
JIM KING, VIA E-MAIL

RE: "ANIMALS HAVE INTRINSIC VALUE" (METRO, MARCH 4) Since the crazies have weighed in, I have to comment. The people that feel this way about pets are usually the people who have difficulty dealing with other speaking, thinking human beings. Of course its easy to deal with an animals' unconditional love because as long as a person feeds that animal, it will overlook all the idiotic things he or she does. That non-verbal pet will never question their owner's stupidity as long as there is a full bowl of food and water where the animal can reach it. The last time I looked, I was at the top of the food chain and find it downright insulting to have to consider a dog or cat as my equal. Don't get it twisted — I am a cat person and have had one all my adult life.
CHARLETTE M. PARNS, VIA E-MAIL

Quoted

"I have never neglected or abused my pets, but I have also never afforded them human status. When they start talking and paying taxes and contributing to the GNP of my home, then I'll look at them differently."
PARNS

Get it straight: Not wanting to kiss a guy doesn't make him homophobic

RE: "MILES TELLER: WILL NOT KISS A MAN HAPPILY" (METRO, MARCH 1-3) Again Dorothy creates a buzz — not for her journalistic skills, but for her anti-boy rants. First off, Seth McFarlane did a DAMN GOOD JOB with the Oscars. If any woman wants to swoon over him, you, Jane Fonda, the creator of "Girls" and all other feminists need to just LAY OFF!

And if a man doesn't participate in the gay lifestyle, that doesn't make him homophobic. Get your anti-straight male replies, for lack of a better word, straight.
RANDALL EPHRAIM, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If you employ a little elbow grease, something you desperately want could come within your grasp. However, don't rely on Lady Luck to do everything for you.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Lucky you: You have a very dependable friend who will come to your aid when you need it the most. Your pal will help out quietly, but don't let that stop you from showing your gratitude to him.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your brain will be like a sponge, enabling you to absorb whatever knowledge you need. You'll use it advantageously, to boot.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** One of your best assets is your ability to fit well into others' projects, making your input and presence an integral part of the whole.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You've done your best to continuously improve your negotiating skills. This will become evident when an agreement needs hammering out.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Someone you helped in the past has been eager to find a way to repay you in some manner. What he or she ends up doing will be worth more than your original act.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Something quite pleasant as well as a bit extraordinary is likely to develop through the good offices of certain contacts. What transpires will have far-reaching effects.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** The life span of a rewarding endeavor can be expanded if you seize the opportunity. However, it may take a little bit of cooperation from a few of your associates.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If there is something important that you want to discuss with another, the best place to do so would be in a social setting. However, try to lead up to the subject gradually.

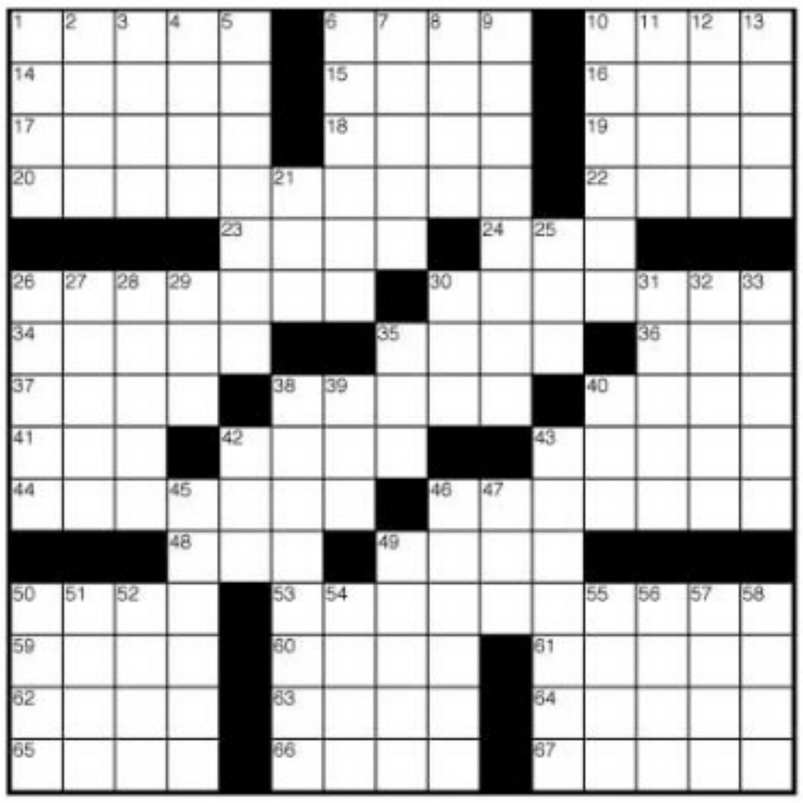
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Something that could enhance your material interests might develop. It could be quite surprising, but don't waste time being shocked — act on it immediately.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Some good news that you've longed for might finally arrive. If this is the case, chances are it'll come sometime after lunch.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Instead of trying hard to make things happen, you'd be wise to let events take their natural course. Besides, you're likely to do better when you're not in the driver's seat.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Hobby shop wood
6 Mimicked
10 Crackpot
14 Cliff dwellings, now
15 Earl — Biggers
16 Hairy twin
17 Light bulbs, in comics
18 Thank you, in Japan
19 Antlered grazers
20 Hot cookie
22 Quick bite
23 We, in Le Havre
24 Unfold, to a poet
26 Bird's penthouse
30 Mink merchant
34 Common bait
35 A twist of —
36 2001, to Livy
37 Ovid's bird
38 Restrains
40 Vigoda and Fortas
41 Toshiba competitor
42 Arizona city
43 Not pass
44 Old-timer
46 Soda fountain treats
48 Anka's "— Beso"
49 Bouquet holder
50 Jalopy
53 "House of the Rising Sun" rockers
59 Keystone site
60 Poi source
61 Judge's prop
62 Docile
63 Cal Tech grad
64 Skirt the issue
65 Rabbit dish
66 Uproars
67 Not very bright

Down
1 Ship's cooler
2 BMW rival
3 Mortgage, e.g.
4 Glitch
5 Concurs
6 Seems reasonable (2 wds.)
7 Menial laborers
8 Humorist — Bombeck
9 Permanent truants
10 More astute
11 Fjord port
12 Squirrel hangouts
13 Hindu — range
21 Outback jumper
25 Game or season opener
26 Pluck a banjo
27 Mars explorer
28 Ms. Jong
29 911 responder
30 Marvy
31 Suffuse
32 Make changes
33 Takes a chance
35 Monastery dweller (abbr.)
38 Personal preference (3 wds.)
39 Ms. Thurman
40 Mi. above sea level
42 Fabric meas.
43 Left the nest
45 Male relative
46 Army brass
47 So far — — know
49 Leo's neighbor
50 Bowlers
51 Q.E.D. part
52 Pinnacle
54 Cape Town money
55 Apply asphalt
56 John, in Siberia
57 Jarrett et al.
58 Swiss artist



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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8			3		4			5
7								6
9			7		5			8
			4		3		9	
	4	9	8				1	
5	7			1				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

W	O	M	A	N	■	U	H	A	U	L	■	F	A	T
A	L	A	M	O	■	N	O	I	R	E	■	L	O	O
D	E	N	I	M	■	F	E	L	L	S	H	O	R	T
I	O	C	■	A	L	E	S	■	S	A	U	T	E	■
■	■	H	O	D	A	D	■	P	R	O	G	R	A	M
S	T	U	D	I	O	■	P	A	I	N	S	■	■	■
L	Y	R	I	C	■	H	I	L	L	S	■	C	R	T
O	P	I	E	■	Y	O	K	E	L	■	R	O	A	R
G	O	A	■	C	A	N	E	S	■	M	O	V	I	E
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Ortiz taking baby steps

Sox learned with Crawford to use proper precaution ◗ DH coming along slowly ◗ Opening Day the target

Red Sox fans were a bit skeptical over the weekend when David Ortiz told the Boston Herald he may not be ready for Opening Day and then could not run the bases in a workout Sunday due to soreness in his foot as he attempts to come back from an Achilles injury suffered last July.

Good news came Monday when Ortiz was able to do base running drills without any issues, and the slugger was highly optimistic about being ready for April.

"It was a good day," Ortiz told reporters in Fort Myers, Fla.. "I was moving pretty good. I don't think I can run faster than that. Let's just see how things go later on tonight."

Ortiz now hopes to not feel any soreness after his running sessions.

"Actually, I was running like I wasn't worried about anything," said Ortiz. "That's important. I can today better than the last time I ran. Everybody was pretty happy about it. I'm happy about it because nothing bothers me when I was running. That's a plus. That is telling me that I'm going in the right direction, you know what I'm saying?"

The 37-year-old is scheduled to run again this week, and if he does so with no problems, that will be a good next step. Sox manager John Farrell hopes to get him game-ready by the end of the week.

"After a day like this, I know I'm going to get sore," Ortiz said. "I'm definitely going to get sore at some point today. But I want to see what kind of soreness I'm getting, and then that's when I call [Dan Dyrek, team physician] the next day, in the morning. We communicate and then they tell me we're going to do this today. We're either going to shut it down or do some slow running. The thing is they don't want to create more pain on top of the pain."

For the Red Sox and Ortiz, the one thing they need to shy away from is rushing the slugger back too soon. The team learned the hard way last year with Carl Crawford, as he was rumored to have returned to action prematurely from a surgically repaired wrist, and then suffered an elbow ailment during the spring, forcing him to miss the first three months of the year.

"Oh, I want to play way before that, you know what I'm saying," Ortiz said of being ready for the season opener. "Of course, that's why we're doing all this stuff: so I'm good to go for opening day. The main goal right now is to make sure I get to play down here. If I play down here, that means I'm good to go."

It would not be the worst thing in the world for Ortiz to miss Opening Day and the early part of the season. The most important thing for the Sox and Ortiz is to make sure the Achilles is fully healed and he is not at any risk of a further injury when he does return.

Ryan Hannable
sports@metro.us

Spring training

Notes from Red Sox camp in Fort Myers, Fla.:

- **Sox minor league pitcher Drake Britton** was arrested on a DUI charge this past weekend. According to the police report, Britton was driving 111 mph in a 45-mph zone in Estero, Fla.
- **Center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury** told ESPN that "it's always a possibility" the Red Sox could approach him regarding a contract extension. Ellsbury is in the final year of his deal with Boston.

BOSTON GLOBE

▶ David Ortiz works on fielding drills in February.

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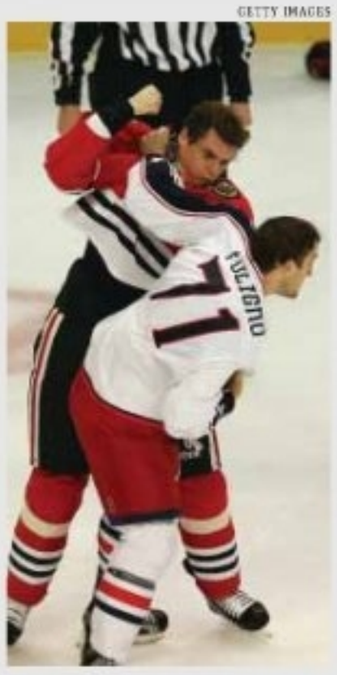

1 BLACKHAWKS (19-0-3)
At some point, the Blackhawks are going to lose in regulation, right? This streak is turning into one of the great marks in regular-season sports history. Chicago is only two games away from the halfway point of their season.

2 DUCKS (15-3-3)
Don't expect to see Anaheim on national television too many times this season, since nobody thought they'd be this good. But if you have the NHL Center Ice package, you already know about this team. The Ducks have scored a Western Conference-best 75 goals, and they are 8-1-0 at the Honda Center.

3 CANADIENS (14-4-4)
You can argue that the Bruins could be here since Montreal has played three more games than them, but we'll go with the Habs since they just won, 4-3, in Boston on Sunday night. In addition, the Canadiens are unbeaten in regulation in their last 10 games and they topped the B's with backup goalie Peter Budaj.

4 BRUINS (14-3-2)
Boston had its six-game win streak snapped on Sunday night vs. Montreal, but they have been playing great hockey on the whole. The Northeast Division doesn't appear to be the walkover it has been the last few seasons, with Montreal and Toronto much improved. Tyler Seguin is heating up, while Brad Marchand is on fire.

5 PENGUINS (15-8-0)
The Penguins have 30 points, just like the Bruins, but they have played four more games. Pittsburgh leads the NHL with 81 goals, they've gone 7-3-0 in their last 10 and they are 9-4-0 on the road. Evgeni Malkin returned from a concussion Monday and scored a highlight-reel goal. Be scared.

6 CANUCKS (11-6-4)
There is a seismic drop from Pittsburgh to Vancouver. The Canucks haven't played well in their last 10 games (4-4-2), but you have to respect the assorted talent they throw on the ice every night. Ryan Kesler can't seem to stay healthy for Vancouver.

7 LEAFS (14-9-0)
It is still hard to take the Leafs too seriously, but they are at least treading water while many teams around them fall back due to major injuries or lackluster play. Toronto is 9-4-0 on the road this season.

8 COYOTES (11-8-3)
The Coyotes are 6-3-1 in their last 10 games, which means something in the Western Conference (the superior conference). One of the best in the NHL, goaltender Mike Smith is healthy and back on the ice for Phoenix. Not many have noticed, but they have built a nice little team in the desert.

9 KINGS (11-7-2)
Outside of the Blackhawks, there is no hotter team in the NHL right now than the defending Stanley Cup champs. They are 8-2-0 in their last 10 games and they have been great at the Staples Center (6-1-1). Jeff Carter had a natural hat trick on Monday night.

10 'CANES (12-8-1)
Since franchise goaltender Cam Ward hurt his knee on Sunday and is expected to be out for six to eight weeks, being this high in the rankings this is probably a mirage — or at least a short stay.

11 SENATORS (12-7-4)
It might have taken a little longer than we expected, but colossal injuries to the Sens are wearing them down. They're 9-1-2 at home, but they've already played in five shootouts (3-2), most in the Eastern Conference. It's hard to see them keeping pace with Montreal and Boston.

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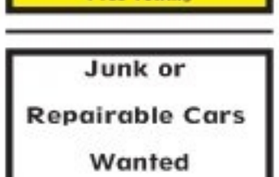

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Satiating spring fever

It's time to get a jump start on the growing season Or plant indoors for year-round greenery

It's a little too early to let spring fever take you over entirely. There is still a possibility of snow, after all. But that doesn't mean we don't get eager when thinking ahead to April showers and May flowers. With the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's famous Philadelphia Flower Show in full bloom, we checked in with Patricia Schrieber, who has been with PHS for more than 30 years for the best ways to prep for a colorful season.

For those that can't wait

If you're just dying to start digging in the dirt, Schrieber suggests sticking with something sturdy that can withstand the cold weather and the possibility of frost. "A hearty perennial or a shrub would be fine to plant now," she says. Check with your local nursery to see which perennials are the toughest, most weather-resistant options for your area.

Planting in the great indoors

Be prepared before you begin your hunt for indoor plants. "Know which windows get the most light in your house or apartment, then you can get the right plant for the right place," says Schrieber. "Usually, if a window gets at least five hours of sunlight, that's equal to 'full sunlight.'" Think of it this way: You wouldn't go couch shopping without measuring your living room first.

Start smart, not big

Don't get lured in by beautiful but fussy foliage. If you're a newbie on the plant front, stick with the greens that you can keep alive. "Try to match the plant to the condition, then you'll feel good," says Schrieber. "And be smart about what you're buying," she warns. "Start small, be successful, then take on more."

PHOTODISC

▶ It's not too early to start prepping your spring garden.

Branch out in your community

Not enough space inside or outside your home to grow the luscious garden you've been dreaming of? Not a problem. The solution to small space is a community garden. There you can grow and — as Schrieber suggests — share. "If you have too many seeds or more plants than room, share with people. Some gardeners are happy to do a seed swap," says Schrieber.

Seeds or starter plants: Which is right for you?

Of course, starter plants are easier to work with and require less attention than seeds. But if you don't call yourself a novice, go the seed route. Just make sure you have an area indoors that is well lit and has good air circulation. If the circulation is minimal you could experience ceiling rot, which can be caused by the plants' moisture.

Julia West
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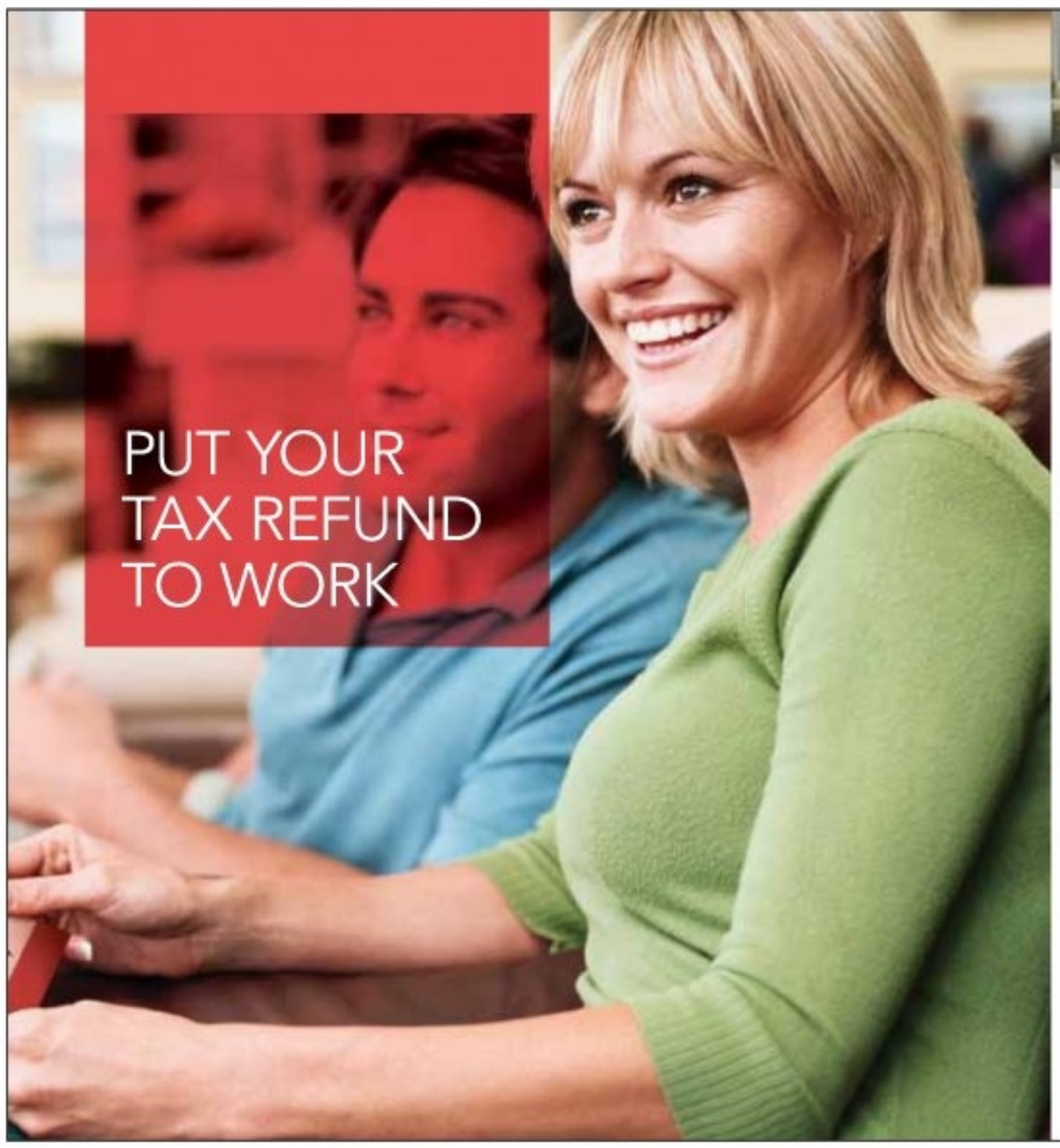

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▶ All of the products on these two pages — including these WallPops by Jonathan Adler Elephant Paisley ($18 per set) — are available at the WallPops store (67 Pacella Park Dr., 800-366-1700) and online.

Add some pop to your home

From Victorian Gothic to '70s hippie, revitalize a room with these easy-to-use products from WallPops

Ready for a spring home spruce-up? Local Randolph-based Brewster Home Fashions' contemporary offshoot, WallPops, provides the ultimate in cheap and chic with its line of wall decals and DIY fixtures.

"The glory is anyone can do it without fear of getting it wrong," says Brewster's creative director, Paula Berberian. Brewster is one of America's oldest independent, family-owned wall covering companies and spans five generations. "There's no fuss, if you change your mind, you can change your design," she says. "For under a hundred bucks, you can dramatically change a room with these products."

Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

The Boston Home Center

This month at **The Boston Home Center**

Since 1996, The Boston Home Center has helped more than 20,000 Bostonians become successful homeowners. We offer an array of FREE classes on everything from the basics of homebuying to help for homeowners and everything in between.

How To Buy a Foreclosed Property
A two-hour seminar including information about the purchase process, legal issues, mortgage and property selection and home repair resources.

March 19: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Roche Family Center
1716 Center St., West Roxbury Boston

How To Buy a Condominium
A two-hour seminar covering the how-tos of buying a condo, from understanding how condominium associations work, to financing your purchase.

March 13th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Curtis Hall
20 South St., Jamaica Plain

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Financial Assistance (includes 3D!):	10:00-11:00 am 12:00-1:00 pm
How to Buy a Home That Needs Work:	10:30am-12:00pm
Options for Reducing Your Mortgage Payment:	9:00 - 10:00 am
How to Hire a Contractor:	10:00 - 11:00 am
Home Repair Programs (includes 3D!):	12:00 - 1:00 pm

WWW.BOSTONHOMECENTER.COM 617-635-HOME (4663)

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston — Department of Neighborhood Development

Have some fun with:

Decals: Forget wallpaper — use these self-adhering prints for a fun, graphic effect. "These are made in America with a technologically advanced micro-sphere adhesive," Berberian says. "They can be peeled off without harming paint and leave no sticky residue. So, it's not a huge commitment. Even if you have no artistic ability, you can choose a wall art kit and it'll look great."

Room Panels: Add a few degrees of separation. These panels hang from a ceiling as a room partition, or from a window as an alternative to blinds and curtains. "These are lightweight and easy to hang. They define a space, or can be used on a wall to add dimension," Berberian says.

Window Film: They're available in privacy film or decorative stained glass. "Use in a room with a window where you don't want a curtain, but want privacy," suggests Berberian. "The film can take up a whole window or just partial. The stained glass gives a very traditional look and is so expressive, but affordable."

Stained Glass Applique Corners: "These can be used on windows, mirrors or cabinet corners," says Berberian. "There are no right or wrongs — use wherever you need a nice accent."

WallPops is available at Home Depot, independent decor shops and an online store at www.wallpops.com.

Chandeliers

The finishing touch: bejeweled or fun chandeliers that fit over a standard fitting (the light bulb should not exceed 40 watts). "I've seen chandeliers over the years and really wanted to do a fun, trendy line," says Berberian. "These add a little glitz to a staid area. It can be whimsical or elegant and it serves a purpose — lighting."

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Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 3/4/13. © 2013 Bankrate, Inc. http://www.interest.com. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payment does not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The loan set forth for each advertisement above may be changed to open-the-plan. (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union, (BA) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., Hours arranged through third parties. "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of $150,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of $417,000. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Lock Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rate (APR) are based on fully indexed rate for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample cited. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Bankrate, Inc. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. Bankrate, Inc. does not own any financial institutions. Some or all of the companies appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. If you are seeking a mortgage in excess of $417,000, recent legislation may enable lenders in certain locations to provide rates that are different from those shown in the table above. Sample Repayment Terms: ex. 360 monthly payments of $5.39 per $1,000 borrowed; ex. 180 monthly payments of $7.76 per $1,000 borrowed. We recommend that you contact your lender directly to determine what rates may be available to you. To appear in this table, call 800-509-4636. To report any inaccuracies, call 888-509-4636. • http://metroboston.interest.com

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THOUGHTS ON CHARITABLE GIVING

By Attorney George Warshaw

I was speaking with Mark at the U.C. about this column. He asked me to write about how charitable giving may be used with an estate plan.

Interesting question.

Money you leave by will, trust or otherwise to an IRS tax qualified charity is not included in your estate at death. If your estate is worth $1,250,000 and you leave $250,000 to a qualified charity, your estate is then valued at $1,000,000.

More interesting is what you can do with your estate.

If you want to leave all or a chunk to charity, and possibly avoid even the Massachusetts estate tax problem, you could establish a private tax qualified foundation in which your friends and family participate in making donations to causes that are important to you.

Once or twice a year friends and family get together, remember you in their thoughts and hearts, and do something good with your money and memory. They could use it where it's needed most – and certainly more efficiently than our spendthrift government.

It's also a good way of keeping your family together and doing something positive "as a family" with a great result.

Anddon'tforgetmytwofavorite charities in your planning – Tenacity and the MSPCA, helping children and pets.
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GWA

George Warshaw is a well-known attorney and author. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts, and estate plans. George welcomes new clients and questions. Contact him at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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